

H O L M F I R T H U R B A N
D I S T R I C T.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1940.



Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1940 I have complied with the instructions laid down in Circular 2314 of the Ministry of Health dated 26th March, 1941.

There have been no changes in the general provisions of health services for the area. The legislation in force in the area has remained the same.

There have been no marked changes or developments in the sanitary circumstances of the area during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspector's reports. The water supply was satisfactory in quantity during the year. As regards quality, the water from Holme Styes Reservoir was satisfactory, but the water from the other reservoirs was not always free from contamination, as is only natural with small open reservoirs receiving a certain amount of surplus water. Much of the work of the Public Health Officials was devoted during the year to Air Raid Precautions, Evacuation and Salvage. The first batch of evacuees to come under the Ministry of Health scheme arrived in November. As billeting arrangements had previously been made for the reception of school children from Yorkshire towns the arrival of London mothers and children did not fit in with these arrangements, and most of the work had to be altered. An inspection of houses previously closed as unfit for human habitation was made with the idea of patching up these houses for occupation by evacuated families. It was found however that the condition of most of these houses had deteriorated and that it would not be worth the time and expense involved to make them even temporarily fit.

APPENDIX I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.. .. .	17,565 acres.
Population (estimated mid.1940).. .. .	18,720
Number of inhabited houses 1937.. .. .	5,987
Rateable Value.	£ 87,808
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.. .. .	£ 343

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS.	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Birth rate per 1,000 pop'n.</u>
Holmfirth	227	122	105	12.12
	223	119	104	legitimate
	4	3	1	illegitimate

STILL BIRTHS.				<u>Rate per 1,000 total births (live & still)</u>
Holmfirth	18	7	11	0.96

DEATHS.				<u>Crude death rate per 1,000 population.</u>	<u>Adjusted death rate</u>
H olmfirth	271	131	140	14.47	13.89

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 births.</u>
<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes.</u>	4	16.32
From Puerperal Sepsis	1	4.08
From other Puerperal causes	3	12.24

Death Rate of Infants under one year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.</u>	<u>Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.</u>
H olmfirth.. . . .	35.24	31.39	250

HOLMFIRTH . (composite figures for whole year).

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Holmfirth Area.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Holmfirth U.D.C.

I herewith furnish statement of the sanitary work done, coming under my notice and supervision during 1940.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

Number of inspections made during 1940	637
" " cowsheds registered	79

Nuisances.

Number of inspections during 1940	487
" reported during 1940	76
" in hand at close of 1939	-
" needing abatement	76
" abated during 1940	74
" outstanding at close of 1940	2
" of informal notices served	61
" of informal notices complied with	61
" of statutory notices served	15
" of statutory notices complied with	13

Sewerage and Drainage - Development during 1940.

No specific development of sewers or drains during 1940.

Closet accommodation.

No.	of Pail Closets in district at close of	
		1940.
"	" Privies with covered middens	56
"	" converted in Pail Closets during 1940 -	290
"	additional Pail Closets provided in	
		1940.
"	" privies converted into water closets	-
		in 1940
"	" additional water closets provided to	4
	old property	2
"	" additional water closets provided to	
	new property	-
"	" water closets in district at the end	
	of 1940	1875

Scavenging:

This work was carried out by the Council's workmen under my supervision and I trust to your satisfaction.

The approximate weight of refuse disposal is as follows:-

To tips.	2534 tons
To farmers	976 tons.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Sam Briggs
Sanitary Inspector.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1940.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.
Honley & New Mill Area.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Holmfirth U.D.C.

Gentlemen,

I hereby present my Annual Report on the sanitary condition
appertaining to the Honley and New Mill districts of your area.

A summary of Inspections is as follows:-

Number of inspections for Nuisances	530
" " " of Houses	43
" " " Cowsheds	347
" " " Meat & other Foods	141
" " " Workshops	12
" " " Factories	40
" " " Bakehouses	23
" " " Houses or Schools disinfected	19
" " " Notices served	104
" " " " "	"
" " " complied with.	102
" " " of Statutory notices	3
" " " " " "	"
" " " complied with	3

Scavenging.

This is carried out by the Council's workmen and 4 motor wagons
In the Honley and New Mill area 12 ashpits have been closed and
replaced by 72 portable dustbins. Most of the refuse is disposed
of by tipping, and I would like to point out that far too much
garden refuse is having to be dealt with on the various tips.

Sanitary Conveniences.

There have been 12 conversions of closets during the year -
7 Tub Closets and 5 Privy Middens.

Meat Inspections.

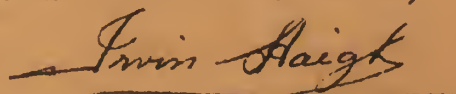
The supplies of meat delivered into the district from the
Huddersfield Abattoir are inspected by me at Holmfirth, and all
pigs killed in the district for private consumption are inspected
at place of slaughter upon receipt of notification.

Cows and Cowsheds.

Inspections of all farms in the district have been made, also
several visits have been made along with me by the Veterinary
Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture. The cows and cowsheds
were found to be in a clean and sanitary condition.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of
the Health and Housing Committee and to all Officials of the Council
for their valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Influenza was prevalent during the winter months. There were four deaths from this disease. There was a certain amount of Chicken Pox and Mumps amongst school children throughout the year. German Measles was prevalent throughout the district during the Spring.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Four hundred and ninety nine cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease were notified to me during 1940, compared with ninety in 1939, but excluding cases notified under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1939 there would only have been 48 cases compared with 88 in 1939. These were comprised as follows:-

Pneumonia 26; Scarlet Fever 7; Diphtheria 6; Erysipelas 5; Puerperal Pyrexia 2; Cerebro-spinal fever 2; Measles 360; Whooping Cough 11.

Scarlet Fever.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. Four of these cases were children and three adults. All were isolated in Hospital and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

Eight cases were notified to me as diphtheria and isolated in Hospital, of which six only proved to be cases of true diphtheria. One of these, a child of six, died. Four of the cases were amongst school children and two adults. None of these cases had been immunised against diphtheria.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-six cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, of which seven died.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year, both in the Honley district. One of these cases was removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Meltham, and died.

Cerebro-spinal fever.

Two isolated cases of Cerebro-spinal fever were notified during the year, both from the Thongsbridge district. Both cases recovered.

Measles.

Three hundred and sixty cases of measles were notified to me, mostly during the Spring and Summer months. 189 of these were from the old Honley area, 129 from the old Holmfirth area and 42 from the old New Mill district. The epidemic was of a fairly mild type.

Whooping Cough.

Eleven cases of Whooping Cough were notified. Ten of these occurred during November and December, nine of them amongst Wooldale school children.

Opthalmia Neonatorum.

No case of Opthalmia Neonatorum occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Five fresh cases of pulmonary and four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis had been notified during the year. There have been eight deaths from this disease, five from pulmonary and three from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

HOLMEIRTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the Year, 1940.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	Over 65 years	Cases admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	7	0
Diphtheria	6	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	6	1
Pneumonia	26	0	0	1	1	4	2	-	2	2	0	10	6	0	7
Erysipelas	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Measles	360	7	17	37	40	47	181	21	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	11	0	2	1	0	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS....	419	7	19	39	42	52	191	26	11	9	0	15	8	16	5

Hospital for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases -

The Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Weltham.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year
1 to 5 years	1	..	..	..	1
5 to 10 years	1	..	..	..	1	..
10 to 15 years	1	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20 years
20 to 25 years	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
25 to 35 years	2	1	..	1	..	1	..	1
35 to 45 years	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
45 to 55 years	1	1	..	..
55 to 65 years
Over 65 years	1
TOTALS	2	3	2	2	1	4	1	3

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	No. of Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 births.
1938	235	12.45	264	13.99	13	55.31
1939	209	11.09	259	13.70	9	43.06
1940	227	12.12	271	14.47	8	35.24

Births.

Two hundred and twenty-seven births have been registered during the year, of which one hundred and twenty-two were males and one hundred and five females. Four of these births were illegitimate, 3 males and 1 female. The birth rate is 12.12 per thousand persons, compared with a birth rate of 14.6 for the whole of England and Wales. There were eighteen still births, of which seven were males and eleven females registered during the year, all legitimate. This gives a still birth rate per thousand persons of 0.96 compared with a still birth rate of 0.55 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

There were eight deaths amongst infants under 1 year of age, all males. Seven of these were legitimate and one illegitimate. The causes of death were premature birth 3, congenital malformations 2, asphyxia 2, bronchial pneumonia 1. The infant mortality rate is 35.24 compared with an infant mortality rate of 55 for England and Wales.

Deaths.

During the year two hundred and ninety-eight deaths were registered in the district. Fifty-nine of these deaths were persons belonging to other districts and were transferred out of the district for burial. Thirty-two deaths also occurred amongst persons outside the district belonging to the district and these were transferred back into this district. This gives a nett total of two hundred and seven-one deaths for the district. One hundred and thirty-one of these were males and one hundred and forty females. The crude death rate of 14.47 per thousand persons, the adjusted death rate is 13.89 compared with a death rate of 14.2 for England and Wales.

Places of Death.

Seventy of the nett total of two hundred and seventy-one deaths occurred in Public Institutions.

Ages at Death.

Of the nett total of two hundred and seventy-one deaths, one was a person over the age of ninety years, one hundred and sixty-four were of persons over the age of 65 years and sixty-seven were persons aged between 45 and 55 years.

Causes of Death.

The chief causes of death were: Heart disease 81, other circulatory diseases 10, cancer 34, cerebral haemorrhage 33, bronchitis and nephritis 14 each, tuberculosis 8, pneumonia 7, suicide and other violent causes 6 each.

Maternal Mortality.

There were four deaths from puerperal causes during the year. One from sepsis, and three from other puerperal causes. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 16.32 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, compared with a maternal mortality rate of 2.16 for England and Wales. This is the highest maternal mortality rate there has been for some years.

CAUSES OF DEATH in 1940.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:-

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	M.	F.
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.	1	4
Other forms of tuberculosis	2	1
Syphilitic diseases	0	0
Influenza	2	2
Measles	0	0
Ac:Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	0	1
Ac:Inf:Encephalitis	0	0
Cancer of B: Cav: and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	0
Cancer of breast	0	3
Cancer of all other sites	12	11
Diabetes	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	13	20
Heart disease	37	44
Other circulatory diseases	6	4
Bronchitis	7	7
Pneumonia	4	3
Other respiratory diseases	4	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	2
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	0	0
Appendicitis	1	1
Other digestive diseases	2	3
Nephritis	7	7
Puerperal and postabortion sepsis	0	1
Other maternal causes	0	3
Premature birth	3	0
Congenital malformation and birth injuries	2	0
Suicide	4	2
Road Traffic accidents	3	0
Other violent causes	3	3
All other causes	9	13
All causes	131	140

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
T. S. DAVY, M.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

